

C O P Y

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

NAVY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

S E C R E T



MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY:

1. Replying to your memorandum of 4 October, it is my thought that the Navy has four main objectives in the field of Intelligence.

- (a) Maintenance of an adequate and efficient Naval Intelligence Service with control by the Navy of collection, processing and dissemination of operational communication intelligence and other functions necessary to the exercise of naval command.
- (b) Elimination of all unnecessary duplication in ONI of those intelligence functions which properly belong to the State or War Department.
- (c) Unification of intelligence activities of common concern to the State, War and Navy Departments in order to synthesize Departmental intelligence on the strategic and national policy level.
- (d) Improve facilities for the acquisition of secret foreign intelligence for the use of the U. S. government.

2. With the reorganization of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations all intelligence functions in the navy will be consolidated under the Chief of Naval Intelligence.

3. In November 1942, General Marshall and I directed our intelligence services to explore ways and means of merging their activities in order to eliminate duplication, reduce overlaps and make headway toward a unified intelligence agency. Thereafter, a number of joint activities were established; also each of the services undertook the performance of certain intelligence functions in behalf of both. These activities have been successful. It is my desire that those having peacetime application be continued and that additional joint projects be established.

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Date 1/28/91

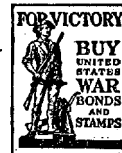
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4. Complete merger of the intelligence services of the State, War and Navy Departments is not considered feasible or desirable since each of these departments requires operating intelligence which is of no value or interest to the others and in the acquisition and processing of which peculiar abilities and background knowledge are indispensable.

5. I recommend establishment of a central intelligence agency, along the lines of the proposal recently approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to coordinate and as far as practicable unify all foreign intelligence activities, and to synthesize all the intelligence concerning military, political, economic and technological developments abroad for the benefit of those responsible for the determination and execution of governmental policy pertaining to national security.

6. If a central intelligence agency is created along sound lines, with the Navy adequately represented on both the policy making and working levels so that a flow of intelligence required for naval planning will be assured, many functions now performed by ONI can be transferred to that agency.

7. It has come to my attention that in a letter bearing the same date as the Executive Order abolishing OSS the President directed the Secretary of State to take the lead in developing a comprehensive and coordinated foreign intelligence program for all federal agencies concerned with that type of activity and suggested it be done through the creation of an interdepartmental group heading up under the State Department.

8. It is recommended that the Secretary of State be urged to expedite the establishment of an interdepartmental group for this purpose which will include representatives of the Secretaries of War and Navy who know the intelligence requirements of the services and who are thoroughly familiar with the organization and operating procedures of the departmental intelligence agencies.

Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy.

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